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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 19-21, 2016

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LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

HELLO, SAKS

Metro's Rosemary Westwood gets real at Toronto's latest luxury spot

metroVIEWS, page 6

Police cuts to benefit T.O. youth

BUDGET

New cash for program to prevent victims and criminals

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Amid a slew of defeated proposals to trim Toronto's police budget, one comparatively tiny motion slipped past city politicians — and youth across the city stand to benefit.

Coun. Joe Cressy led the charge late Wednesday to have $220,000 removed from the police service's $1.3 billion operating budget and put it toward youth programs.

The cash will go to a program called Furthering Our Community by Uniting Services (FOCUS), a city-led initiative working to reduce the chances that young people will commit or becomes victims of crime.

More than 400 youth in Rexdale have already been helped by the program. The new funding — secured with a 25-17 council vote — will expand to 42 Division in Scarborough and downtown Toronto in Divisions 51 and 14 starting in April.

Cressy said increasing funding for youth programs makes a lot of sense from a crime-prevention perspective.

"We know who the most vulnerable youth are," he said, adding city initiatives help youth deal with issues ranging from mental health, poverty and drug use. "Let's go to them and work with them early."

It's time for the city to invest more in prevention rather than just law enforcement, said Cressy, who voted in favour of every police budget cut tabled.

"You cannot keep having a ballooning, billion-dollar police budget without accountability," he said. "Enough speeches, enough reports, enough task forces, enough recommendations."

> **We know who the most vulnerable youth are.**
> Coun. Joe Cressy

More coverage, page 10

CITY VS. UNIONS | Talks go down to the wire; what strike would impact | metroNEWS

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City and staff come to a head

LABOUR

Unions paying for projects, police wages, says leadership

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Toronto's budget — from the ballooning cost of policing to a host of unfunded capital projects — has become a talking point in the city's ongoing labour negotiations with workers.

Bargaining continued into the evening Thursday, between the city and the two unions representing 5,400 outside and 23,000 inside workers. Outside workers — who perform duties like garbage pickup — hit a legal strike position at 12:01 a.m. Friday. Inside workers — who, among other things, help keep city day cares running — will be in a legal strike position at 12:01 a.m. Saturday.

Earlier Thursday, Mayor John Tory called the latest offer from the city "eminently reasonable." Union officials shot back, saying members are being asked to swallow "deep cuts" to help pay for police salaries and infrastructure projects.

"Toronto finds itself in a financial situation because council approved $22 billion in capital projects that it couldn't pay for," said CUPE Local 79 president Tim Maguire. "Our members should not be expected to take money out of their own pockets or their benefits because of that."

As Tory stressed the need to keep "pushing" for agreement late Thursday, Maguire questioned why the city is content to wait until next year to find savings in the police budget — which passed Wednesday with only one minor cut — yet is approaching labour talks with other workers with a sense of urgency.

"I respect the approach of sitting down and finding solutions, and if that takes a year so be it," Maguire said.

Tory called the city's approach to bargaining "entirely consistent," noting the police association accepted lower wage increases than in previous agreements and were willing to budge on benefits.

The two CUPE unions are asking for what they've called "modest" wage hikes and more security for part-time and contract workers. They took demands for better benefits off the table Wednesday, but the city appears to want benefits clawed back.

"Toronto is the most unequal city in the country," Maguire said, citing wage inequality. "Coming after the sick leave, benefits or wages for the women and men who work for the city is going to make that worse, not better."

Mayor John Tory
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GET READY CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR SERVICES

The city has drafted a contingency plan in the event of a strike. Here's how the services you rely on would be impacted. LUKE SIMCOE METRO

Child care

All child-care centres operated by the city will be closed for the duration of a strike by inside workers, along with all children's services district offices.

Garbage

The city contracts for garbage collection west of Yonge Street, so only people in the east end would be affected by an outside workers strike. However, there could be delays in collection everywhere if sorting centres are picketed. If your garbage collection is suspended, the city is asking that you store trash and compost for a week. If the strike continues past that time, the city will announce temporary drop-off locations.

TTC

Along with police and fire, the TTC is considered an essential service and will operate as usual during any job action.

Shelters

Toronto's 10 emergency shelters and two 24-hour cold weather drop-in shelters will continue to operate if inside workers strike, but service levels and hours could be affected.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Roads

All city roads, sidewalks and bike lanes will be salted and plowed in the event of a snow storm. The city will also go ahead with emergency road or sidewalk maintenance.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Parks and recreation

City parks will remain open, but snow removal and other services will be suspended in the event of an outside-workers strike. Park washrooms will be closed and all permits issued for events in city parks will be cancelled. City-owned recreation centres — from arenas to pools and skating and curling rinks — will be shut down. The city says that "whenever possible," any recreation classes or programs will be extended following the strike to make up for lost time.

Libraries

Public library staff are part of a separate union and thus most of the city's branches will be open. However, four branches — Flemingdon Park, St. James Town, Port Union and Todmorden Room — are located in city-operated facilities and will be closed.

Refugees

The Toronto newcomer office for Syrian refugees will stay open during the strike to help settle new arrivals to the city.

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HUDSON'S BAY

Urban farming 'viable' solution

ENVIRONMENT

Student says green tech could feed the whole city

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Ben Canning is on a mission to see more produce sprout from Toronto roofs — big and small. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

If Ben Canning had his way, Toronto would be growing all of its own food within a few years.

The third-year management student at Ryerson University is on a mission to revolutionize urban farming through a plan that aims to quadruple the amount of produce sprouting on green roofs.

His budding company, Farmium, depends on technology to design, install and maintain automated green roofs.

Through the use of machines programmed with precise algorithms and using wireless nodes, home and building owners can make growing food on pretty much any roof possible — not to mention easier.

Farmium's model is vertical, literally: Using a hydroponic tower system, so-called urban farmers are able to "plant" three or four items upright, cutting down on the amount of space needed.

It's the "only viable" solution to have food shipped in from around the world, he said.

"Think about how far what you're eating has to travel to get to you," said Canning, noting that all that shipping is expensive and cuts the nutritional value of food.

"That's just unacceptable in my opinion," he said.

"We're outsourcing an economic opportunity."

Canning and his team have started testing their new model through Growing North, a social initiative addressing food shortages in Nunavut.

They'll soon start with a couple of pilot projects in Toronto.

"I really want everyone to start asking, 'Why can't we grow everything here?'" he said.

"The technology is here, the need is here. It's about time."

+ COMPETITION

Canning's business pitch to turn the city's green roofs into produce-laden gardens recently earned him the title of Student Entrepreneur Provincial Champion from Enactus Canada, a student leadership development organization.

He'll compete against other student entrepreneurs next month for a chance to participate in the national exhibition in Toronto this spring.

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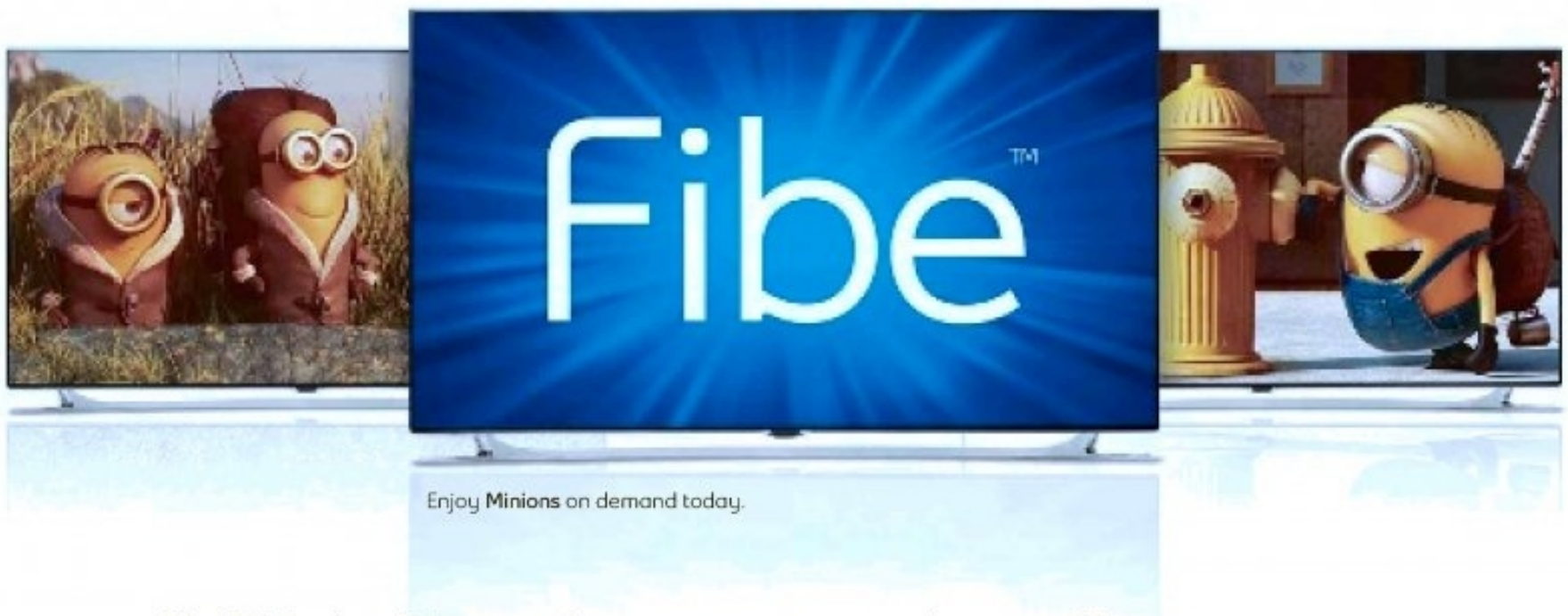

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It was a relief to leave the gilded never-neverland of Saks Fifth Avenue

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
metroview

Metro columnist Rosemary Westwood checks out high heels, with longing and an eye on their price. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

A trip to Saks Fifth Avenue, which unveiled its inaugural Canadian store in Toronto yesterday, begins long before you get there.

As with any outing to a place where the rich congregate, it begins standing naked in front of your thrift-store/discount closet, fretting over what to wear. It's like dressing for a date with a wealthy man you may not like but are nevertheless desperate to impress.

You aim to blend in enough that security guards ignore you, without looking so at home that clerks actually try to sell you anything. I opt for all black, a cocoon dress over slim slacks and a sweater so pilled that I'll never get the nerve to take my coat off, even when I begin to sweat under the bright lights and highly reflective surfaces of the three-floored jewel box. I imagine the $2 polyester scarf around my neck has whiffs of 1970s Gucci. I consider my look minimalist, "inspired by The Row (with apologies to Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen)." But when I eventually glance at my face in one of the store's many, many, many mirrors and find eyeliner smudged down to my cheeks, it's an embarrassment, proof to all those women who had just flung perfumed paper and macaroons at me that I am, in fact, an imposter.

I feel better when the sleek-suited salesman for a French skincare line leans into the mirror and checks his teeth.

I am not the only interloper. Behind the long gold desk at the sparkly entrance, three chic staff watch tourists with backpacks, an aging biker-gang-styled guy and an elderly couple pulling a wheeled shopping bag push through the doors. They wander past small, $150 bottles of perfume from a rare made-in-Japan brand, Celine's $2,500 horseshoe-shaped leather handbags, diamond rings and Prada sunglasses and bouquets of blush-coloured peonies guarding the escalators.

Some — amazingly — are here to shop: trying out purses that appear from back rooms in red velvet bags; opting, from among more than 1,000 styles of shoes, for the pink, red and gold-studded Valentino stilettos for $1,500 ("They're more special than the plain black," she says. "I won't even tell my husband!" her friend gushes).

On the third floor, a group of dapper, bespectacled middle-aged men wander the women's apparel brands, beaming over a few select racks of Balenciaga. One slouches into a marble-armed chair, which turns out to be

Everywhere, those with money to spend giggle and exclaim, 'It's amazing! How exciting! Absolutely gorgeous!'

Balenciaga-made. Another marvels at the decor, comparing it to Valentino's flagship New York outpost. "They spent 70 million opening that store!" he gossips while standing on a $650-million bit of real estate at Toronto's Queen Street and Yonge Street.

At the Carolina Herrera and Oscar de la Renta boutique, I pause to finger gowns normally far beyond reach and linger at the black, voluminous evening skirt: $3,790.

Everywhere, those with money to spend giggle and exclaim, of the opulence, "It's amazing! How exciting! Absolutely gorgeous!" Important-looking people pose for photos and talk with TV-news crews. Meanwhile, an orchestral rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," of all songs, floats between racks of spaciously hung clothing.

It may be aspirational for me, but luxury shopping is a growing reality for some. Saks has plans for dozens more stores across the country. Nordstrom is also expanding north of the border, all while luxury-brand flagship stores pop up.

I typically steer clear of such expensive spaces, not because I can't afford what's inside (though I can't), but to avoid feeling even schlubbier than I already do. So it was a relief to leave never-never land with its gilded decor and heavy perfumes, and step out into the sharp winter cold.

The Saks Fifth Avenue awnings dripped melted snow onto the sidewalk crowds. People slipped in and out of the subway or begged for change. I left without that relatively cheaper pair of $775 Manolo Blahnik floral pumps, but I did stop by The Bay's repair shop to get my watch fixed — for $22.60.

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Helping refugees, knit by knit

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Local woman raises money to send yarn to Beirut camp

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A Toronto woman has launched a fundraising campaign to buy yarn — a precious commodity for the Syrian women in Beirut's Shatila refugee camp.

Dana Kandalaft runs Tight Knit Syria, a social enterprise organization that provides wool to Syrian women in refugee camps, pays them to knit and sells the handmade items — ranging from decorations to clothing — at tightknitsyria.com.

Kandalaft was born in Toronto to Syrian parents who emigrated 25 years ago.

Her project was sparked by a visit to the Olive Tree Camp, which houses refugees in Atmeh. There, she met women who were skilled in knitting, embroidery and crochet — but didn't have the materials to make anything.

"This is something they've learned from their mothers and their grandmothers," she said.

Making and selling handiwork is the "most realistic" way for woman in the refugee camps to earn money for their families, she said.

Syrian refugees are forbidden to work in Lebanon, and under-the-table jobs, mainly in construction, are hard for men to come by. Kids are often looked on to bring in money for families by shining shoes or selling things like flowers or tissues on the street, she said.

For the women who spend their days in the camp knitting, it's a way to share some of their past with the world.

"These skills are one of the only things they've brought with them from Syria," Kandalaft said.

CALL TO ACTION

You can support Project Shatila at indiegogo.com.

Clockwise from left: Syrian refugees Malak, left, and Mervat are among those knitting pieces for Tight Knit Syria. Among the pieces available: A Zenobia pocket mirror, bags made in Jordan's Zaatari Refugee Camp, and clutches with hand-embroidered detailing.

UPPER LEFT: COURTESY DANA KANDALAFT; OTHER PHOTOS TIGHTKNITSYRIA.COM

BURLINGTON

Teacher faces 10 sexual assault charges

Police say a 30-year-old teacher is facing 10 sex assault charges involving young students.

Halton Regional Police say a Milton man was arrested and charged on Thursday following complaints of inappropriate sexual touching by several students.

At the time of the alleged incidents, the man was employed with the Halton Catholic District School Board as a supply teacher at St. Christopher's Elementary School in Burlington.

Police say he is not currently working at any school.

Police say Anthony Cuccione is charged with five counts each of sexual assault and sexual interference.

Investigators say they suspect there could be additional alleged victims and are encouraging them to contact police.

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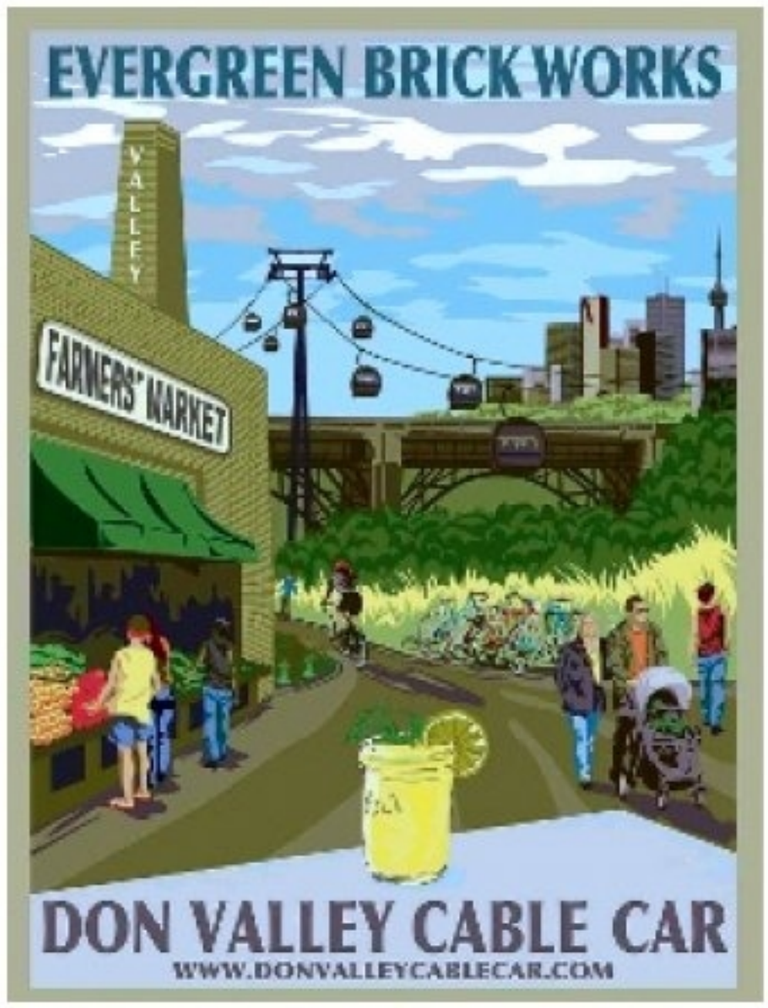


Gondolas could carry tourists and residents over the Don Valley by 2018. BOTH IMAGES COURTESY BULLWHEEL INTERNATIONAL CABLE CAR CORP.

Cable cars over the Don

TOURISM AND TRANSIT

'Novel' idea could happen with sufficient political will

Imagine soaring high above the riotous autumn colours of the Don Valley aboard a comfortable cable car that would connect the bustle of Danforth Ave. with the natural surroundings of Evergreen Brick Works on Bayview Avenue.

That is the $20-million to $25-million proposal for Toronto's first gondola, being floated by private company Bullwheel International Cable Car Corp.

Envisioned as a major tourist attraction, the Don Valley cable car could be up and running in three or four years, although that is an aggressive timeline, admits the company's CEO. It would be built and operated without public money.

"(Gondolas) are proven technology. Our technical director is a third generation ropeway technician who's built systems all over the world. He commissioned 10 of the lifts for the Sochi Olympics," said CEO Steven Dale.

The gondola still needs to meet rigorous public and civic approvals, but Mayor John Tory said it could fit with his agenda "to move people any way we can." He called the concept "exciting" and "novel."

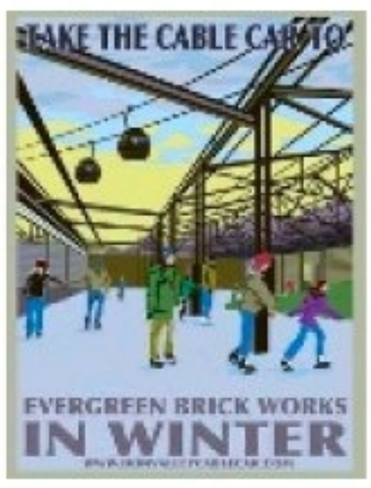
"I don't know why we'd reject any means of getting people around," he said.

Gondolas are mostly associated with ski hills but increasingly they are being integrated into urban landscapes, said Tory.

"We're trying to come to grips with what kinds of ways we can provide people greater access to the ravines without being too obtrusive ... The concept of a cable car that goes through some land that is beautiful and scenic is very appealing," said the mayor.

Bullwheel hasn't applied for any city approvals yet. It wants to put the plan before a public information meeting on March 8 at Estonian House at 958 Broadview Ave.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



RETAIL

Call it a Wynne-wine situation

Wine, beer and alcoholic cider will be sold in up to 300 grocery stores in Ontario in the next decade.

Premier Kathleen Wynne announced Thursday that the province will now allow wine to be sold in grocery stores, building on her government's expansion of beer sales last year. An initial block of 70 so-called "universal" licences for grocery stores to sell wine and beer will be allocated this summer, with an eye to having them operational in the fall.

There are 292 retail wine stores operating separately in grocery stores, and up to 150 of those could be converted to beer and wine outlets inside the stores with a shared checkout, still operated by the private wine companies.

The timeline will ultimately be up to government but recommendations from Ed Clark, the former TD Bank executive turned premier's adviser on government assets, suggest that by 2025 Ontario could see beer and wine sold in 300 grocery stores, with a further 150 selling beer only.

Wynne called it a "delicate balancing act" between the needs of the industry, its desire to grow, trade obligations and ensuring competitive prices.

"All of those balls were in the air as the (Clark) council did its work, and as I say, I think we've reached a good balance of all of those things," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kathleen Wynne formally announces wine sales in Ontario grocery stores.
MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Counting up police costs

The average police officer costs the city about $139,000 a year in salary, premium pay and benefits. Metro arrived at that figure using the service's 2016 budget and the total size of the uniformed force. However, junior officers make less than senior officers. So, when Chief Mark Saunders said a proposed $25 million cut would mean losing 400 officers, he must have been talking about entry-level salaries. These are the proposed police budget cuts that make up the $25 million and how the money would be spent. In a few cases, funding was found outside the police budget. Most other proposals fell by the wayside. **JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO** ILLUSTRATION: ANDRES PLANA/METRO

Proposed cut	What it would have paid for	The cost in officers	Was it funded?
$220,000	Youth programs	1.5	**Funded from police budget**
$109,000	More money for student nutrition program	1	Funded from city reserves
$25,000	Skating on Grenadier Pond	0.2	Funded from city reserves
$3.5 million	350 more childcare subsidies	35	Partially funded (150 subsidies) from city reserves
$297,000	Youth recreation spaces	2.5	Funded from city reserves
$2 million	More reliable bus service	15	Not funded
$600,000	More reliable subway service	4.5	Not funded
$1.3 million	Protecting parks from invasive species	8	Not funded
$423,000	Winter park path maintenance	3	Not funded
$892,000	Safety initiative for TTC workers on Subway tracks	6.5	Not funded
$7.7 million	Bus maintenance for improved reliability	X 55	Not funded
$1.2 million	Reversal of cuts to library and health services	7.5	Not funded
$5.8 million	Replenishing the city's reserve funds	X 42	Not funded

Murder victim's crime ties downplayed

SHOOTING

Patriarca was never charged for a related offence: Police

Murder victim Alfredo (Freddy) Patriarca played many roles in his life, including that of a much-loved family man, Toronto police said on Thursday.

"He was a member of the community," Det.-Sgt. Joyce Schertzer told a press conference. "He was a father. He held many different roles to many different people."

Schertzer downplayed reports that one of the Etobicoke man's roles was that of organized crime associate, although she said he was definitely targeted by his killer, who attacked within a minute of his arrival home near The Kingsway and Princess Margaret Boulevard around 6:24 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

"Family was home at the time," Schertzer said.

Schertzer read a statement from Patriarca's widow which described him as a "good and giving man."

"Freddy was a very loving husband and my best friend," the letter stated. "He was an extremely devoted father who adored his two children."

The killer took just eight seconds inside his garage to shoot him dead, Schertzer said.

"The person responsible needs to be found before they do it again," she said.

Schertzer said she hoped someone might recognize the killer's "distinctive gait," which was captured on video.

She downplayed reports that the victim was connected to organized crime.

"I'm not working that angle at all," she said. "Mr. Patriarca has never been charged with an offence in relation to organized crime."

Homicide investigators are combing through 348 hours of video, she said.

A police source earlier told The Star that Patriarca was picked up often on police wiretaps probing the Rizzuto crime family of Montreal during the Colisee probe in the mid-2000s.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Alfredo Patriarca TORSTAR NEW SERVICE

Lion cubs Gus, Hank, Oliver and Harrison pose for a family photo with their mother, Makali. TORONTO ZOO

TORONTO ZOO

Pride of brotherly white lions named

The cutest brothers in town have been officially named: Gus, Hank, Oliver and Harrison.

The names for an adorable litter of white lion cubs at the Toronto Zoo were announced in a short video posted to Facebook on Thursday afternoon.

According to the post, the five-month-old cubs were named by their zookeepers, who have worked closely with them since they were born last year.

The cubs were born to father Fintan and mother Makali in September and weigh more than 30 pounds. They are expected to weigh between 260 and 440 pounds when fully grown.

The cubs can be seen by the public in a special exhibit open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., weather permitting.

The zoo sometimes gives the public the opportunity to help with the naming process through contests.

On Wednesday, the zoo revealed that names Jia Panpan and Jia Yueyue are leading an ongoing poll for their panda cubs. Voting for that contest ends on Feb. 28.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ONTARIO NEWS

Feds delay OPG decision

The federal government has again delayed a decision on Ontario Power Generation's plan to bury nuclear waste at a site near Lake Huron.

OPG says the federal government has said it won't make a decision as planned on March 1, adding that Environment Minister Catherine McKenna has instead has requested three studies.

The Bruce Nuclear facility would store about 200,000 cubic metres of low- and intermediate-level waste from 40 years of operations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

York region votes to keep control of chair selection

When it comes to choosing the regional chair in York Region, the council will maintain the status quo.

After a lengthy debate on Thursday, regional councillors voted 14-5 against a motion that would have allowed the 1.1-million residents of the York Region to vote for the prestigious position of regional chair.

Currently, the position is appointed by the 21 members of council. York is one of two cities that still appoint the chair.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Syrian refugee plan gains slight support

RESETTLEMENT

Poll finds many Canadians still remain at odds over program

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Support has grown slightly for Canada's plan to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees by March 1, but Canadians still remain at odds over the issue, results of a new poll show.

More than half of Canadians (52 per cent) support Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's plan to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to this country by March 1, while 44 per cent oppose the plan, according to an Angus Reid Institute poll.

That's an increase of eight percentage points in support of the plan since the institute's last poll on the issue in November, conducted shortly after the terrorist attacks in Paris, which found 54 per cent of Canadians opposed and 42 per cent in support of the plan.

Shachi Kurl, executive director of the Angus Reid Institute, said the increase in support might be due to the Liberal government's decision to push back the deadline from Jan. 1 to March 1.

"Canadians are still deeply divided on this issue," Kurl told Metro. "But what we can take away from this is … really that extension of two months took a lot of the heat off and certainly enabled a lot of people to change their thinking on the plan overall."

But the growth in support for refugee resettlement hasn't alleviated fears about the speed of the process.

According to the poll, 59 per cent say the deadline is too soon, while 37 per cent say it's about right. Only four per cent say things are moving too slowly. Those most in favour of the refugee resettlement plan are among those who feel the March 1 deadline is too ambitious.

"People are still concerned about the security aspect," said Kurl, adding that fewer than one-in-three respondents (31 per cent) say they feel the screening process is adequate, while 37 per cent believe it is inadequate and 32 per cent are unsure.

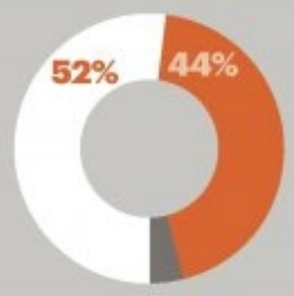
Regionally, support for the refugee plan is highest in British Columbia and Atlantic Canada, with 61 per cent in support and 60 per cent in support, respectively, and lowest in Alberta, with 41 per cent in support.

Coverage

The federal Liberals are ripping up a patchwork system of health-care coverage for newly arrived refugees and those seeking refugee status in favour of blanket coverage for all, beginning in April. Starting in 2017, they'll also extend coverage to certain refugees before they even arrive in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

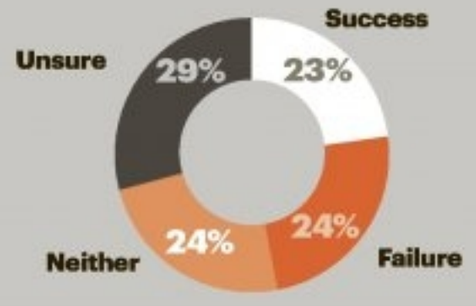
BY THE NUMBERS | Canadian refugee resettlement plan

1 Support of the government's plan



Just over half of Canadians support the government's plan, while 44% oppose it.

2 Outlook on the plan's legacy



Canadians are evenly divided on what the legacy of the resettlement program will be, with roughly the same number saying it will be viewed as a success, a failure, or neither 15 years from now (29% are unsure).

3 Regionally, Canadians remain divided about the plan, with support for it highest in British Columbia and Atlantic Canada, and lowest in Alberta.

British Columbia and Atlantic Canada | **Alberta**

4 Should we bring more refugees?

Roughly two-in-five (42%) say Canada should stop taking in Syrian refugees immediately. The rest either say the country should stop at 25,000 refugees (29%), or accept even more (29%).

ANDRES PLANA/METRO

HUMAN RIGHTS

Plight of Shoal Lake heads to world stage

Austin Grabish
For Metro

Linda Redsky is packing her bags, leaving her isolated community and preparing to share the plight of Shoal Lake 40 on the world stage.

Shoal Lake, which lies on the Ontario-Manitoba border, provides the City of Winnipeg with clean drinking water, but has been under a boil-water advisory itself for nearly two decades and is cut off from the mainland.

Redsky and possibly a second band member will join the Human Rights Watch at the United Nations in Geneva on Monday as the rights watchdog presents a report detailing its preliminary findings on Shoal Lake 40 and three other Ontario reserves.

The presentation will be made to the UN committee on economic, social and cultural rights, which is reviewing Canada's track record on human rights.

The group started investigating living conditions on Shoal Lake, Neskantaga, Batchewana, and Six Nations of the Grand River Territory last year after Shoal Lake started making headlines.

Linda Redsky at Shoal Lake First Nation in 2015. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Redsky, 55, has fallen through an ice road while trying to cross into the community during the winter, and recently had to temporarily relocate off-reserve to Kenora, Ont., so her foster son could attend high school.

She said she's seen the plight of her community get worse over the years "as I've watched the people continue to go across."

"I've seen vehicles going through. The loss of life," she said.

Redsky said the boil-water advisory has also made it almost impossible to bathe on the island.

IN BRIEF

Ottawa drops Khadr appeal

The federal government has decided against pursuing an appeal of an Alberta court's decision to grant former Guantanamo Bay inmate Omar Khadr bail. The decision came in a joint statement Thursday from Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale and Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, which said the government of Canada respects the court's decision to release Mr. Khadr on bail in Canada "pending his U.S. appeal of his U.S. convictions and sentence." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bad news for economy

The OECD has cut its projections for Canadian, U.S. and global economic growth over the next two years and urged governments to respond to help strengthen demand.

"The world economy is likely to expand no faster in 2016 than in 2015, its slowest pace in five years," the Paris-based economics think-tank said. "Trade and investment are weak. Sluggish demand is leading to low inflation and inadequate wage and employment growth." THE CANADIAN PRESS

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Blind photographer exhibit aims to break down stereotypes

John Olson, co-founder of 3DPhotoworks, shows off his new 3D-printing technology heralded as a breakthrough for people with vision loss. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

When amateur photographer Tara Miller lost most of her vision in high school, she did what most people would expect — she put her camera away.

It wasn't until years later that Miller picked up a camera again and discovered a much richer experience. She used her keen hearing, the feeling of the lens focusing on a subject and even her sense of smell to frame an image.

"When I'm composing an image, I'm not really using my eyesight," said Miller, now a professional commercial photographer in Winnipeg.

"There's no difference with us being visually impaired or legally blind photographers. If we're comfortable in what we're shooting, we're going to get that same result as someone who's fully sighted."

Blind photographers like Miller are hoping a new exhibit at Winnipeg's Canadian Museum for Human Rights, opening to the public this weekend, will help showcase talent and break down stereotypes surrounding the visually impaired.

The exhibit entitled "Sight Unseen: International Photography by Blind Artists" features over 100 works but also uses 3D technology to allow those with vision loss to feel some select photos with their fingertips while touch sensors in the prints set off descriptive audio.

One photographer's work is embedded with braille while another is accompanied by a topographical print-out of the photo, which can be touched by visitors.

"It does a great job of expanding the perception, the expectations and pre-conceived biases that people would have," said Corey Timpson, the museum's vice-president of exhibitions, research and design. THE CANADIAN PRESS

> "The more people can be exposed to this, the more there's just a general awareness."
> Corey Timpson

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Obama will talk civil rights in Cuba

DIPLOMACY

Meeting with advocates a condition of historic visit

President Barack Obama said Thursday he'll raise human rights issues and other U.S. concerns with Cuban President Raul Castro during a history-making visit to the communist island nation.

The brief visit in mid-March will mark a watershed moment in relations between the U.S. and Cuba, making Obama the first sitting U.S. president to set foot on the island in nearly seven decades. While in the country, Obama plans to meet with groups advocating for change in Cuba, a condition the president had laid out publicly for such a trip.

"We still have differences with the Cuban government that I will raise directly," Obama wrote on Twitter in announcing the visit. "America will always stand for human rights around the world."

Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Rodrigo Malmierca, on a visit to Washington, told The Associated Press that Obama's visit is good news for Cuba.

"The president will be welcomed," he said in Spanish.

The U.S. was estranged from the communist nation estranged for over half a century until Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro moved toward rapprochement more than a year ago.

Since then, the nations have reopened embassies in Washington and Havana and have moved to restore commercial air travel, with a presidential visit seen as a key next step toward bridging the divide.

Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser, said the president will carry the message that the U.S. and Cuba need not be defined by their "complicated and difficult history."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We still have differences with the Cuban government ... America will always stand for human rights around the world.
President Obama

1 Kainaat Soomro sits in her home. She was 13 years old when three men kidnapped her, held her for several days and raped her.
2 Sidra Kamwal was the victim of a horrific acid attack.
3 When Azra was 18, her family sold her to an older man — now she fights for a divorce.
ALL PHOTOS: SHAKIL ADIL/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDDLE EAST

Pakistani women seek justice

Kainat Soomro was 13 years old and on her way to buy a toy for her newborn niece when three men kidnapped her, held her for several days and repeatedly raped her.

Eight years later, she is still battling for justice. She sits on a steel-framed bed in her parents' three-bedroom home, and holds her blue shawl tight around her body. When she describes the horror of her captivity, her voice is barely a whisper, but it gains strength when she talks of the fight she has been waging: going to Pakistan's courts, holding protests, rejecting the rulings of the traditional Jirga council, taking on the powerful landlord and politician who she says are protecting her attackers.

The Associated Press does not usually identify victims of sexual abuse, but Kainat has gone public with her case. Her battle for justice has inspired an award-winning 2014 movie, Outlawed in Pakistan. Malala Yousefzai, the Pakistani teenage Nobel Peace Prize winner who was shot by the Taliban, invited Kainat to the Nobel award ceremony, and her fund has given Kainat financial help.

Yet Kainat's family has paid a high price for her bravery. One sister remains unmarried and another was divorced because her in-laws were ashamed to be associated with Kainat. In 2010, her brother was killed over his sister's refusal to stay silent.

Clutching a gold-framed picture of his son, Ghulam Nabi Soomro spat out words of condemnation. "They know about our troubles thousands of miles away but here in the next street no one is helping us get justice," he said.

In Pakistan, women are often too fearful to report sexual violence, yet the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan recorded 423 rapes and 304 gang rapes last year. It also said that last year at least one woman a day was killed in the name of honour. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ECOLOGY

Rural Australia still facing 'hairy panic'

Irene Kuan
For Metro

There's a "hairy panic" in the rural city of Wangaratta, northeast of Victoria, Australia.

This term may have caught your attention, but what this "hairy panic" is referring to are fast-growing, out-of-control tumbleweeds that are overtaking properties, covering furniture and blocking entrance ways to homes and garages.

Although residents say the tumbleweeds are a common nuisance, the unusually dry conditions have made them unbearable this year. Wangaratta resident Matt Thewlis posted photos of the bizarre situation to the Rural City of Wangaratta's Facebook page asking for help, citing the weeds as "a massive fire hazard."

Residents told Australia's 7 News they spend hours everyday digging their way out of the colossal tumbleweeds all to have the pesky grass pile back up in the morning.

Tumbleweeds outside a home. FACEBOOK.COM

WILDLIFE

Crowd poses with beached baby dolphin until it dies

Wildlife groups are furious after a crowd on an Argentine beach passed around a young dolphin for selfies until it died from dehydration.

The baby La Plata dolphin – considered a vulnerable species – was found on Santa Teresita beach, where it was fondled and photographed instead of being put back into the water. ANDREW FIFIELD/METRO

Tourists with the dolphin.
FACEBOOK.COM

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Virus causes modest drag

ECONOMY

Zika threat hurting trade, tourism in Latin America

The spread of Zika will have a modest drag on economies in Latin America, with tourism-dependent Caribbean nations most at risk, the World Bank said Thursday. It made $150 million immediately available to help fight the virus.

The World Health Organization has declared a global health emergency in response to the Zika outbreak and the U.S. is urging pregnant women to avoid travel to the 26 nations and territories in the Americas where Zika is present because researchers have identified possible links between the virus and rare birth defects.

But despite the scare, the World Bank says the impact from the epidemic is likely to be small.

In a report, it estimates lost revenue will total only $3.6 billion, or about 0.6 per cent of the region's gross domestic product. That would come from reduced travel to the region and sick employees missing work, while anti-mosquito efforts will strain already tight national budgets.

The forecast assumes the regional and international response to the virus is swift and well co-ordinated.

"Our analysis underscores the importance of urgent action to halt the spread of the Zika virus and to protect the health and well-being of people in the affected countries," Jim Yong Kim, president of the Washington-based World Bank, said in a statement.

While a number of countries have reported a rash of business conference and wedding cancellations, hotels were booked full and the mood as festive as ever during this month's Carnival celebration in Brazil, the epicentre of the epidemic. In Rio de Janeiro, average hotel occupancy was 86 per cent during the festivities, an increase of almost three percentage points over the previous year, according to the Brazilian Hoteliers' Association. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mara Torres, eight months pregnant, looks at a mosquito net placed over her bed Wednesday in Cali, Colombia. The spread of Zika will modestly affect Latin American economies, with tourism-dependent Caribbean nations most at risk, the World Bank says. LUIS ROBAYO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Canadian Tire's next move likely e-commerce: CEO

The next acquisition for Canadian Tire Corp. will likely be in e-commerce, says the head of the national retailer.

"We set a path for ourselves to be a leader in e-commerce in Canada and that's where we're heading," said president and CEO Michael Medline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cosmetics company buys Lise Watier Cosmetiques

Groupe Marcelle Inc., a developer, manufacturer and distributor of cosmetics, has acquired Lise Watier Cosmetiques.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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STOCK OPTIONS

Shopify calls on feds to abandon tax plan

The CEO of one of Canada's up-and-coming tech companies is calling on the federal government to abandon its plan to expand taxation of stock options, saying the move will make it more difficult for startup firms to attract talent.

Tobi Lutke said the Liberal proposal would have made it more difficult to launch his Ottawa-based company, Shopify.

"It would have been harder to build Shopify with the taxation being the way that it's proposed," he said in an interview.

During last year's federal election campaign, the Liberals promised to cap how much can be claimed through stock option deductions.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau said he will soon release details about the commitment. The government is expected to release its first budget mid-March.

While Shopify continues to grow its revenues, Lutke said it will focus on taking advantage of opportunities to grow before posting profits late next year.

"We think Canada needs a tech company of the size that America produces and that's what we are aiming for," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tobi Lutke, CEO of Shopify. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS

Your essential daily news

Weekend, February 19-21, 2016

Weighty waddling
Researchers had overweight penguins walk on treadmills to see how slimming down could affect their gait. It made them a little less wobbly.

Metro POLL

A smoking hot issue

Visit metronews.ca **to have your say.**

New research shows indoor smoking bans like the one introduced in Ireland in 2004 do help reduce illnesses caused by second-hand smoke, which kill 600,000 people per year worldwide. Gone are days of smoking sections and billboards advertising "smooth" cigarettes, but 18 per cent of Canadians still take a puff at least occasionally, and there's controversy as to where they should be allowed to do it — indoors, outdoors, in public, in cars or not at all. We asked readers if the right to clean air should take priority, or if the "smoke free" movement has gone so far that it threatens individual freedom.

1 Should smoking be banned in indoor public spaces?

2 What's your experience with second-hand smoke?

3 Where should smoking be banned?

30% Indoor public places
25% In cars if children are present
17% In private homes if children are present
14% Outdoor public places
8% Literally everywhere. And let's ban tobacco too
6% Other

Let's have places (and rules) where it is specifically allowed. Adults-only places.

It should be allowed everywhere except where there's a fire hazard.

If you live in a city, second-hand smoke doesn't hold a candle to all of the smog.

Ban smoking in apartment buildings where smoke can get into other units.

WE ASKED Metro readers

Why show mosquitoes mercy?

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

The Zika virus should be called the sneaky virus.

In near-silence it ambushed the better part of a continent, infecting more than a million people in less than two years, mostly in Brazil. The majority got mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. And then the babies started being born.

There's very strong, but not yet conclusive, evidence that Zika exposure in utero can cause microcephaly — infants with abnormally small heads and brains. It's devastating, and it often isn't diagnosed until birth. Thousands of babies are believed to be affected, though the uptick may be partly because of more diagnoses and possibly other causes, including other viruses.

Pope Francis has indicated he may be OK with contraception for women at risk of Zika. In ultra-Catholic Latin America. That's how high the level of fear and anguish is.

And it's all mosquitoes' fault. *Aedes aegypti*'s fault, specifically. That's the invasive African species that transmits Zika, dengue and yellow fever.

Not even humans can hold a candle to the jerk-itude of mosquitoes. No other species has come close to causing as much human suffering and death — skeeters sicken hundreds of millions and kill 725,000 people every year.

So why let them live? Why not global annihilation? A high ecological price might be warranted in exchange for a world with no Zika or other mosquito-borne diseases.

Someone brings this up seemingly every time there's a major mosquito-borne outbreak. This time it was Daniel Engber of Slate, who called for "full-scale mosquito-cide."

Eradication, whether of a virus, an insect or anything else, is a seductive public-health concept: It's simple, it's focused and it lends itself to goal-setting and international co-operation. And when it works, it saves not just the lives of people today, but billions of future people.

I *want* mosquito eradication to make sense, at least for *aegypti*, which isn't even native to the Americas. But there's no scientific consensus that it a) could be done, or that b) the environmental collateral damage would be worth it.

Problem A: Feasibility. You may have heard about a new high-tech, lethal anti-mosquito weapon: genetically modified male mosquitoes that mate with wild females and produce mosquito babies that can't survive. The UN supports this.

Though the technology is experimental, it's been shown to work: *Aegypti* has plummeted where such frankenflies have been introduced. But large-scale use would "take mind-boggling resources and billions of dollars," University of Winnipeg biologist Robert Anderson told me.

The frankenfly strategy would also have to be "militaristic," Anderson said. Homebody *aegypti* likes to cosy up to humans. It would rather roost indoors in a half-full water glass than a swamp. Modified mosquitoes would have to be released — continually released, remember, because they kill themselves off — in and around homes. Logistical nightmare. Likely unpopular.

Problem B: Environmental impact. What would we miss in a biosphere without mosquitoes? Such science is speculative but the answer might be, "Eh, not that much."

Mosquitos go through drastic population fluctuations, so they're not usually an essential link in their local food webs. I asked Brock University ecologist Fiona Hunter about this, and she said *aegypti* can be erased from the Americas but other mosquitoes are still essential for biodiversity.

So where does that leave us in the Zika battle? Classic mosquito control: eliminating standing water and providing pesticides, repellent, bed nets, window screens and public education. It works OK. It's a pain, and it's expensive, and it means playing nice with our mortal enemy. But it seems the best weapon we have.

Genna Buck is a science writer and a section editor at Metro. Follow her on Twitter @genna_buck.

metroview

Sugar babies may be sad, but you have to admit they're practical

Emma Teitel

If you're a university student drowning in debt, conventional wisdom says you get a job waiting tables or pouring lattes.

But there's another way to pay your tuition, less known but infinitely more effective: the Sugar Baby way.

Using matchmaking websites like Seeking Arrangement, a growing number of university students — most of them young women in a bind — have been signing up online as official "Sugar Babies," offering to enter into romantic and/or sexual relationships with wealthy, older males — a.k.a., Sugar Daddies — who provide them with gifts and cash allowances.

This may sound like high-class prostitution, but in reality it's more like advanced gold digging. Babies and Daddies choose each other and discuss sex and financial compensation when and if it suits them (Hint: it usually does).

Like prostitution, this isn't even remotely a new phenomenon. What is brand new, though, is its exploding popularity on Canadian campuses.

According to Seeking Arrangement's annual ranking, released this month, "Sugar Baby sign-ups" among university students in Canada have increased by 21 per cent over the last year. The trend is particularly pronounced at the University of Toronto (133 new recruits).

Mackson McDowall, a 60-year-old former lawyer who lives in Niagara Falls (He was disbarred in the mid-2000s for commingling funds) has contributed financially to Sugar Babies at York University (his alma mater) and Princeton University in the United States. In an interview, he said he attributes the increased student presence on the site to a heightened appetite among young people for "fun and excitement."

But broadening horizons may be less important to Sugar Babies than avoiding insolvency. The average student debt in this country is roughly $25,000.

Consider Rebecca, 22, a University of Toronto student. She says she would never have considered the website if it weren't for her dire financial situation. She's been a Sugar Baby for about a year, in which time her Sugar Daddy (a software executive who has since moved away), gave her a weekly allowance of $600 and a gift of $1,500 for tuition.

If you're thinking there's something sleazy about a romantic arrangement that's based on bartering sex for tuition, you're not alone. Sure, Starbucks might be the respectable option, but when you're facing debt and bankruptcy, respectability can run a distant second to peace of mind. We may consider it sad that hundreds of Canadian students have turned to sugar-babying; but in the world we inhabit, it is also uniquely practical.

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star.

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MOVIES TELEVISION GOSSIP

From scripture to the big screen

GENRE

There is a right way to make a good Christian film

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

In 2006 Entertainment Weekly rated The Passion of the Christ — Mel Gibson's gritty and gory account of Jesus Christ's final 12 hours leading up to his crucifixion in Jerusalem — the most controversial movie of all time.

Its detractors noted historical and biblical inaccuracies and accused the film of being anti-Semitic and excessively violent. Despite the cries of critics, the film became the top-grossing Christian movie ever.

In fact, it was something of a miracle at the box office, earning $611,899,420 worldwide in its original release.

Since then there has been a trickle of films aimed at a Christian audience, some successful, some not, some controversial, some not.

Passion had a great marketing strategy coupled with enough controversy to get people interested to see what all the fuss was about.

It's been hard to capture that kind of lightning in a bottle again, which is why we haven't seen a cavalcade of biblical epics in mainstream theatres.

This weekend Risen looks to the bible for inspiration. Playing like an unofficial sequel to Gibson's film, it tells the tale of the Resurrection from the perspective of Clavius (Joseph Fiennes), a Roman Centurion commanded by Pontius Pilot to quell reports of a risen Messiah and thwart an insurrection in Jerusalem.

The film, directed by Waterworld helmer Kevin Reynolds, appears to have skirted around controversy by telling the story from the point of view of a fictional and non-believing character.

The studio is quick to note, however, that the script is a "faithful scriptural treatment of the story."

The secret to success for a Christian themed movie lies with the filmmaker's ability to translate the scripture to the screen.

"Christians like a well told story," War Room director Alex Kendrick, who, with his brother Stephen have been labelled the "Steven Spielbergs of Christian cinema." His movie toppled Straight Outta Compton from the number one spot at the box office last year.

"What we don't like is when our saviour's name is abused or taken in vain or our morals trashed, so that keeps us away from many movies. It's amazing to me that if Hollywood knew how many movies we stayed away from on purpose because of some of the offensive aspects they would change because it means much more money for them."

Recently Noah, starring Russell Crowe as the arc-building prophet, angered some Christian groups for not being reverent enough. Director Darren Aronofsky called it the, "least biblical biblical film ever made," and a studio press release admitted, "artistic license has been taken."

The Christian community has met other films with open arms. Catherine Hardwicke's The Nativity Story drew on the gospel of Matthew for the story of the Immaculate Conception and while it wasn't the box office bonanza that made Passion headline news, it made money and skirted around controversy.

In 2004 Christian films were popular enough to garner a category at the irreverent Mexican MTV Movie Awards. Up for Most Divine Miracle in a Movie was the water into wine sequence from The Last Temptation of Christ; Passion's Christ healing Peter's injured ear scene; and the part in Bruce Almighty where Bruce causes his girlfriend's chest to grow several sizes. Mexican audiences voted and Bruce Almighty's miracle took the prize.

Risen, opening this weekend, tells the tale of a Roman Centurion tasked with quelling reports of a risen Messiah. CONTRIBUTED

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Race	★★★
Risen	★★
The Witch	★★★★
Touched With Fire	★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

EXCLUSIVE: TOMORROW

SPECIAL FORCES AND STRONG OPINIONS

See what Canadians think about our PM, his choices around the war in Syria, and other hot topics like assisted suicide, the budget and pensions. We dig into the issues from a new Forum Research poll tomorrow in Star Touch, the free tablet app from the Toronto Star.

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Black magic and 17th century feminism

HORROR

Robert Eggers cast a spell on critics with The Witch

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Filmmaker Robert Eggers is winning awards and getting a lot of attention for crafting what's quite possibly Hollywood's very first feminist horror film featuring 17th Century New England pilgrims.

"I think it's just something about the zeitgeist and I'm lucky that witches are in the air," explained Eggers during an interview about The Witch and its accumulating acclaim.

"Two years ago, people might've just gone 'it's just some weird pilgrim horror movie, (screw) that.'"

Of course, The Witch isn't just a "weird pilgrim movie." In fact, the thought-provoking drama about one puritan family's brush with black magic is a visually-striking authentication of the witch archetype and it's manifestation of "men's fears, desires, ambivalence, fantasies about women and female power" in the 17th Century.

But the film also "strangely (represented) women's fears, desires, ambivalences about motherhood in this extremely male-dominated society," added Eggers. "And the shadows of that still exist today."

A far cry from the popularized green-skinned caricature in a pointy hat from Broadway musical Wicked or even the Hollywood classic The Wizard of Oz, Eggers' witch dares to demonstrate that even though his film is set nearly 400 years ago in the forests of New England, it's still an important parallel to society's modern perceptions of women.

"I wasn't trying to go at this with any sort of social, political, religious angle or agenda but when you read the primary source material, feminism is just bursting out all over the place," said Eggers. "I mean, as a collective cultural conscience, actually claiming female power in a positive way is something we're still struggling with."

Underlining the drama with such subtext may have been the more manageable task for the Sundance Film Festival winner for Best Directing. In fact, attempting to capture the 17th Century on celluloid seemed to be the more considerable challenge.

"Puritans were not into art so there's not a great painting tradition from the period," explained Eggers of the largely uncharted look and feel of the era. "But we feel confident, even if this isn't the most accurate version, certainly this is our best — given the most up-to-date research. I mean, we screened for colonial historians and they gave it a thumbs up."

SUPERSTITION

The Real World Witch

"In the 17th Century, the real world and fairytale world were the exact same thing," said Eggers. "If you called someone a witch, you really believed this person was capable of doing all the horrific, primal things that the witch in my film does."

Anya Taylor-Joy stars in the pilgrim horror movie The Witch, in theatres today. CONTRIBUTED

When you read the primary source material, feminism is just bursting out all over the place.
Director Robert Eggers

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Art imitates life: Donald and Kiefer Sutherland play father and son in Forsaken. DAN POWER/MOMENTUM

Family bonding, Sutherland-style

FORSAKEN

Kiefer and his dad, Donald, make a Western together

Donald Sutherland, 80, and Kiefer Sutherland, 49, have nearly 275 combined credits and 85 years of experience between them, and have somehow only shared the screen three times.

The first was 1983's Max Dugan Returns. The second was in 1996's A Time to Kill. Now, finally, in the period Western flick Forsaken, in theatres and on demand Friday, the Sutherlands are not only sharing scenes, but a bloodline, playing father and son for the first time.

Did you have an unspoken agreement that you wouldn't necessarily try to work with one another often?
Kiefer: I've wanted to work with my dad since I started. There were three actors who I admired through school — my dad, Gene Hackman and Bobby Duvall.
So why now?
Kiefer: When it wasn't working out organically, I started thinking of different ideas. It wasn't a fluke that we found something and we did it. It's something that I've wanted to do for 30 years and just thought we better get it done sooner than later.

Did you spend much time dissecting the story and your characters?
Kiefer: No.
Donald: Let me elaborate on that ... no.

Did you learn anything about each other during this process?
Kiefer: There's a way he goes to work and it's built for speed and it's incredibly effective and I think it's incredibly well thought out. I would have to say this film more than any other single experience I've had as an actor, I was caught off guard by how looking into my father's eyes would effect a scene.
Donald: Wait, what did you say?
Kiefer: That when I would be in the middle of a scene and when I would actually look into your eyes, I would look into your eyes from my life. They have a resonance to me and they mean something to me and so I would have a visceral reaction to that.
Donald: Because it goes years back.
Kiefer: I had to make a conscious choice not to get in the way of that. So things came to me in the process of making this film that would have been things that I would have had to work quite hard to arrive at. I felt like I was cheating.
Donald: It's absolutely true. You're doing ... it's stupid to say therapy, but your DNA informs a lot of your work. And the combination, you know it's the same DNA roughly.
Kiefer: I lost the tall stick. That wasn't one of the 21 pieces I got.

So in that way, does this film mean more to you?
Kiefer: I didn't spend as much time with my dad as I wanted to when I was growing up and he didn't spend as much time with me as he wanted to when I was growing up. I was thinking, "Well I didn't get to go on that fishing trip with my dad and I didn't get to do this with my dad." I wrapped two days after my dad and he was driving away, and I couldn't help but smile and realize wow, we just spent eight weeks together, 14 hours a day, six days a week. And we made something. That's a lot better than a fishing trip.
Donald: We went fishing!
Kiefer: Well I know we went fishing.
Donald: I don't like fishing.
Kiefer: I was using it more as a metaphor than anything else.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leaping into the myth of a sports legend

Toronto-born Stephan James plays the legendary 1936 African American Olympic track-and-field gold medallist Jesse Owens in Race. CONTRIBUTED

BIOPIC

Canadian plays iconic Olympic athlete Jesse Owens in Race

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

In the film Race, Toronto-born actor Stephan James plays the greatest and most famous athlete in track and field history. But, when he was approached about the part, James wasn't sure exactly who Jesse Owens was.

"When I got that call that they're making a Jesse Owens biopic I scratched my head a little," the 22-year-old says. "He won those gold medals, right? How many did he win again? I didn't know how many he won or where he won them or under what circumstances or when this all took place."

He quickly learned about Owens's early career, the Ohio State races that made him a legend and how an African American runner stared down Hitler by winning four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

"After reading the script and researching his life to find out the backstory I was literally blown away. Blown away that this had taken place almost 80 years ago."

The film documents 28 turbulent months in Owens's life, from just before he enrolled in university to the Olympics where, ESPN would later say, the runner "single-handedly crush[ed] Hitler's myth of Aryan supremacy."

Jason Sudeikis, who plays Owens's college trainer Larry Snyder, says he wanted to make the movie because "it didn't lean on any one thing. It was bigger than just a sports film. It wasn't pontificating, we didn't treat Jesse with kid gloves and only as an icon. We can't have all our heroes with giant hammers and capes. While that is good at the box office and for people with stock options I don't know how good it is for little boys and girls who think that is the only way they can become a hero. We got to show the humanity behind him, we see him warts and all. You see his petulance, you get to see his indecision, you see him make horrible missteps as a husband and father, and yet all through that adversity he has the humility and integrity to correct those mistakes. That is just as heroic as whipping Hitler's buns for four gold medals."

We got to show the humanity behind [Jesse Owens], we see him warts and all.
Jason Sudeikis, who plays Owen's trainer

James, who was recently seen as civil rights leader John Lewis in the critically acclaimed Selma, felt the weight of playing a legend on screen.

"It is one thing to be leading your own film," he says. "To be number one on that call sheet, to know you have the biggest workload, to know that there are millions of dollars and ideas on your head. It's another thing to play Jesse Owens, the icon, the man, the myth, the legend. A guy who is not only a pivotal person in American history but world history, so I knew I had my work cut for me. The pressure was there. Obviously he's not alive but his family is and have been very much involved since the beginning. There is a certain responsibility to play a real character, of course, but the great Jesse Owens is a whole other thing."

After starring as Owens in Race, James has his sights set on playing another kind of hero. "I want to play Spider-Man," he says. "I think that would be dope. I've always wanted to play a superhero but Spider-Man is so cool, so unassuming. I think I can relate a little."

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

Caesar salad is a lot like Girls. It's easy to mock, it's misunderstood, and sometimes it's controversial.

The Caesar salad is many different things to many different people. Dressed up with lardons and a poached quail egg, it's a playful gourmet dish. With strips of watery white chicken breast, it's a "healthy" pub option. And at home, with rubberized bacon bits, a jar of Rene's and packaged croutons, it's mediocre. Unless, that is, you Google "easiest Caesar salad dressing" out of necessity because your Rene's expired five months ago, and happen to have real bacon and homemade croutons on hand and you make the best Caesar salad you've ever had, like I did on Monday night.

"I think Caesar salad is considered gauche in some circles," I said to Simon as I mashed up garlic and anchovy, right before we settled in with our dinner and a sneak peek of HBO's fifth season of Girls. "Maybe because of its overexposure, like beet and goat cheese salad. It's also misunderstood because it's not even Italian."

"So you've told me," he said, "a hundred times."

"And it's controversial: were there anchovies in the original dressing? Probably not."

Simon sighed.

"Oh my God, you know what?" I said, as lemon juice stung a hangnail. "Caesar salad is a lot like Girls. It's easy to mock, it's misunderstood, and sometimes it's controversial."

"And having an opinion about Girls is as irrelevant as having an opinion about Caesar salad," Simon said. "because everyone has got one."

Including me. I was a piece of solipsistic sh— in my early 20s, who nearly dropped out of grad school because what was the point? By day I sat on my deck reading Goethe and making collages in my journal using old National Geographics. By night I waited tables.

When Lena Dunham was 23, she wrote, directed and starred in a feature film, Tiny Furniture, that the New York Times compared to a John Cheever novel. She turned that twentysomething self-serving melancholy into art and two years later, in 2012, continued to mine it for Girls, the award-winning HBO comedy drama that Dunham created and stars in as Hannah Horvath. For some reason, her work makes me want to take stock of who I am and where I'm going, with a force that few of her contemporaries can muster.

This latest season, which premieres Sunday night, begins with Marnie's country wedding. Does this matrimonial moment suggest that at least one of the four millennial cohorts has grown up? "We're thinking Laurel Canyon," Marnie explains to her make-up and hair stylist. "Let's do like a Ralph Lauren and Joni Mitchell: artistic but also with a nod to my cultural heritage, which is white, Christian woman."

Maybe not.

But that's part of the show's appeal: everyone is aimless, undecided and not yet self-conscious about referencing, say, John Cassavetes as a creative influence.

The first four episodes showcase Dunham's talent for finding humour in both the sacred and profane, and exposes her body — to educate (bodies can be diverse, even on TV) and to use as a punchline, like Buster Keaton did. And the show continues to be a complicated mix of viscerally shocking laughs and subversive inversions of tired familiar tropes. Meanwhile, Ray, played perfectly by Alex Karpovsky, continues to function as the show's Greek chorus, articulating what the audience is thinking."While she's painfully narcissistic, shockingly tone-deaf, and just generally one of the most insufferable people you'll ever meet," he says about Hannah, "she means something to me."

Me too.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

TV BRIEF

Brad Pitt may get his moment in the Sons of Anarchy prequel

Brad Pitt might take on a leading role in a Sons of Anarchy prequel, reports NME.

The creator of Sons of Anarchy, Kurt Sutter, has confirmed that he wants to make a prequel of the show about a California motorcycle club that ended in 2014. Sutter said that the prequel would start in the Vietnam War and would be a 10-12 episode series.

Sons of Anarchy star Charlie Hunnam played the character Jackson 'Jax' Teller in the original series. If the series takes off, Hunnam hinted in an interview with Men's Journal that Brad Pitt could be chosen to play his father John Teller. AFP

Brad Pitt. GETTY IMAGES

REALITY TV

'Big Ang' of Mob Wives has died

Angela "Big Ang" Raiola, the raspy-voiced bar owner who gained fame on the reality TV series Mob Wives, died early Thursday, nearly a year after being diagnosed with throat cancer. She was 55.

Raiola died at a New York City hospital while surrounded by friends and family, said series producer Jennifer Graziano.

A statement posted from Raiola's Twitter account said she had "peacefully ended her battle with cancer."

"YOU (Her fans) were some of the most special people in her world, and she loved you immensely," said the statement. "Thank you for your love, prayers, and unconditional support of Angela right to the end."

Raiola was initially diagnosed in March 2015 with throat cancer that spread to her brain and lung.

Even as she fought the disease, the native New Yorker remained the candid, colorful figure that viewers came to know on VH1's Mob Wives and her two sequels.

"You can call me Angela. I'll call you handsome," she told TV host Dr. Mehmet Oz during a pretaped appearance that aired on his Dr. Oz show Feb. 16.

Raiola, nicknamed Big Ang for her nearly 6-foot height, told Oz she was trying to keep her spirits up as chemotherapy and radiation failed to check the disease. She had already undergone several surgeries, and her trademark flowing black hair was gone, replaced by a short, blond cut.

Angela Raiola, better known as Big Ang, starred in the reality TV series Mob Wives. CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

SERIES FINALE

Raiola will remain part of upcoming episodes of Mob Wives, which wrapped production in January, producer Graziano said. The series finale airs March 9, with a reunion episode set for March 16.

"I look at my kids and my grandchildren and I know how much they need me," said Raiola, who lived with her daughter Raquel's family on New York's Staten Island, where Raiola ran the Drunken Monkey bar.

A cigarette smoker for 40 years, Raiola said she stopped immediately after her first cancer diagnosis last year. Her doctors told her the disease was "positively" caused by smoking, she said, and she called for people to quit the habit or resist picking it up.

Her sister and brother-in-law were key members of her support team, Raiola told Oz, but she said her husband, Neil Murphy, was no longer part of her life.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Trump to open swank D.C. hotel ahead of U.S. election

A princess in training

Sick of running through the sleet and snow? Then go to Disney. The company's resorts offer a number of marathons throughout the year to make running even more fun. Writer Jennifer White shares her last-minute prep for this weekend's Princess Run in Florida.

Jennifer White
Torstar News Service

Anything worth doing is worth doing poorly, in a rush, while complaining. As an Olympic-level procrastinator, this strategy has steered me through the most stressful of life experiences (ask me about my master's thesis one day).

But when I found myself a mere four weeks before the Feb. 21 half-marathon at Disney World with no significant training in months, I wanted to run. Away.

My knee injury (and IT band tightness and hip inflexibility and everything my Mamma gave me) had not just crimped my running-plan style, it had shrunk my training window to insignificance.

But after being poked, prodded, stretched, strengthened and, finally, braced, I was literally back on the road. I had no idea how to get where I wanted to be (again, uncannily like that thesis) and was desperate to find some way, any way, of making it to the finish line. Because what lay ahead could be a veritable Turducken of embarrassment; a lack of training wrapped in injury-plagued luck, nauseatingly stuffed inside a high-stakes social experiment that (apparently) people are reading about in a national newspaper.

I felt awesome. And by awesome I mean sick. That's when I called a Hail Mary. I scoured the Internet for tips from people who were underprepared to run such a distance, trying to find the best ways to do no harm to myself, finish in the upright position and still have enough gas in the tank for a few jars of celebratory ale at the finish line. After collating all of the best plans from the brightest running minds around, I whipped and frappéed them into the single-best Hail Mary running plan in the entire universe, the core principles of which boiled down to one guiding rule: Do Your Best.

My focus turned first to endurance. If I was going to have the fortitude to walk 21 kilometres, let alone run it, I needed to get my heart a-pumping again. Mondays were 30 minutes of medium-intensity intervals, combined with short bursts of powerful sprints in order to prepare best for the outlay of power necessary during the race. Wednesdays featured an "at-half-marathon-pace" run for 30 minutes. And the weekend heralded a slower-than-molasses long run where I would delicately plod my way through an increasingly mind-numbing distance until I either hit the magic 16-kilometre mark a week before the race, or crumpled into the fetal position.

But wait, there's more! Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays held a variety of Herculean tasks. This chocolate box of unlimited delights included cross-training, cycling, swimming and my personal (absolutely opposite of) favourite, yoga. On one particularly painful run, I wondered if this was all worth it. But while in the middle of a sprint, I took a moment and looked down at myself. I saw a strong, powerful woman. I saw that she was running her guts out in the middle of an Ontario winter. And I saw that she was dressed head-to-toe in her ridiculously elaborate Disney half-marathon costume, just to make sure it didn't chafe on the big day. If I can do what I've done while dressed as Ursula, the villainous sea-witch in The Little Mermaid, I can flipping do anything.

24K
The number of participants in the 2015 Disney Princess Half Marathon, making it one of the largest female-focused events in the U.S.

91.5%
Percentage of female participants in the Princess marathon

28
Number of countries runners come from

COURTESY TODD ANDERSON

MARATHONS TO RUN FOR

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May 5-May 8, Disneyland Resort, California

Disneyland Half Marathon Weekend
Sept. 1-Sept. 4

Disney Wine & Dine Half Marathon Weekend
Nov. 4-Nov. 5, Walt Disney World Resort, Florida

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TRAVEL NOTES CHAPLIN, CROATIA AND IMAX

Long-awaited Charlie Chaplin museum to open in April

A museum showcasing the life and works of Charlie Chaplin will open at his former Swiss home in the village of Corsier-sur-Vevey in April after more than 15 years of planning, organizers say. Chaplin spent the last 25 years of his life in Switzerland after he was barred from the U.S. in the 1950s over suspicions that he had communist sympathies, at the height of the McCarthy-era. AFP

Charlie Chaplin's last residence, the Manoir de Ban. AFP

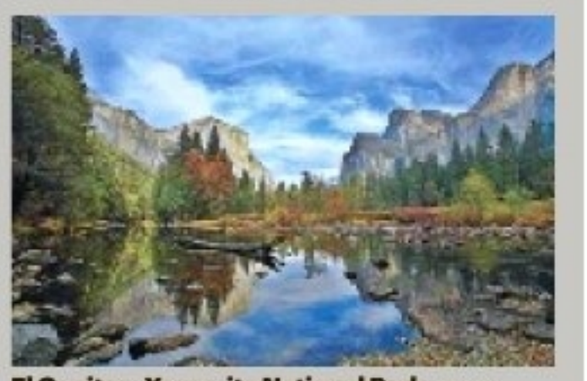
Zadar, Croatia beats Paris, Rome in vote for best European destinations

The results of a public vote have crowned the city of Zadar on Croatia's Dalmatian coast Europe's best destination for 2016, a place Alfred Hitchcock called the home of the most beautiful sunset in the world. The waterfront town beat bigger, more cosmopolitan destinations like Paris, Rome and Madrid to take the top spot, according to europeanbestdestinations.com. AFP

Zadar, on the Dalmatian coast. ISTOCK

New 3D IMAX film shows off American national parks

Robert Redford narrates a new IMAX film that shows off America's natural beauty to commemorate the U.S. National Park Service's centennial. In addition to serving up a visual feast, National Parks Adventure traces the history of the National Park Service. In 1903, naturalist John Muir took Theodore Roosevelt on a camping trip through Yosemite Valley to try to persuade him of the importance of preserving the country's natural resources from industrial pillaging and plundering. AFP



El Capitan, Yosemite National Park. ISTOCK

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4 ASIAN FESTIVALS THAT SHOULDN'T BE MISSED

A continent renowned for its beguiling array of cultures, Asia hosts a myriad of festivals. Each marked by their own traditions and activities, these annual celebrations make for wonderful tourist experiences. Whether water fighting in Thailand or sending lanterns afloat in Myanmar, you can take part in these festivals in 2016. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

1 Poya festival (Sri Lanka)

While many major festivals in Asia are annual, the Poya festivals in Sri Lanka coincide with **each full moon**, meaning they number at least a dozen per year. These Buddhist festivals are public holidays and derive from the belief that Buddha wanted his followers to carry out significant spiritual activities on the day of every full moon. Many worshippers don white clothing and visit Buddhist temples or shrines to join ceremonies and make offerings. There also are street parades involving music and children dressed in traditional costumes.

2 Songkran (Thailand)

Few festivals in Asia encourage the participation of tourists as readily as Thailand's nationwide Songkran water festival, which marks the Thai New Year on **April 13**. For three days each April, Thai cities, towns and villages switch into party mode as their streets swell with local and foreign revellers dousing each other with water.

3 Bonalu (Hyderabad, India)

Smeared in body paint, men writhe and groan in an apparent state of trance. Next to them, a line of women wearing saris sway while balancing ornate pots upon their heads. This group forms a procession along the stone paths which lead through ancient Golkonda Fort. It is a fascinating manner in which Hindus give thanks to the Goddess Mahakali **every July.**

4 Loi Krathong (Southeast Asia)

The serene experience of lighting a lantern and setting it floating down a river, across a lake, into the ocean or up into the sky is the key activity of this Buddhist festival that takes place on **Nov. 15.** The act of sending these lanterns on their way symbolizes the disposal of one's bad luck for the previous year. It is celebrated in Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, China and Vietnam.

*Some conditions apply. Visit itravel2000.com or call 1-866-WOW-DEAL for details. †$75 Universal Visa Prepaid Card valid on new online bookings only made between February 19-22, 2016 for travel departing between February 19- April 30, 2016. Applicable on pre-packaged vacations with a minimum price of $995 per person, before taxes, based on double occupancy. Not combinable with any other promotions. Not applicable on deposit bookings. Must be paid in full in order to qualify for $75 Universal Visa Prepaid Card. Prepaid card will be sent by mail by March 14, 2016 to the address listed on the invoice. Prepaid card is issued by Peoples Trust Company pursuant to a license by Visa Int. No cash access or recurring payments. Prepaid card is given to you as a reward, refund, rebate or gift and no money has been paid by you for the card. Card valid for up to 12 months; unused funds will be forfeited at midnight EST the last day of the month of the valid thru date. Card terms and conditions apply, see MyPrepaidCenter.com/site/visa-univ-can. Package Fares: Toronto departures. Prices shown are per person in Canadian dollars, based on double occupancy and include all taxes, surcharges and mandatory fees and do not include travel insurance and other travel related expenses. Prices are for select departure dates and are accurate and subject to availability at advertising deadline, errors and omissions excepted, and subject to change. Packages are subject to availability at time of booking and are subject to change without notice. New bookings only. Not valid on group bookings. 8635919 Canada Inc. (dba as itravel2000) is a TICO licensed company. tico.ca #50021097. 1004 Middlegate Road, Suite 3000, Mississauga, ON, L4Y 1M4.

metro SPORTS

David Price made his first big-money throws of spring training as Red Sox pitchers and catchers reported to Fort Myers, Fla.

NHL LEAFS FALL LATE VS. RANGERS Leo Komarov goes to the front of the net against Rangers goalie Antti Raanta during Thursday night's 4-2 loss. Rangers captain Ryan McDonagh was forced to exit after he was elbowed in the head by Komarov. The Maple Leafs forward was dealt a match penalty for the illegal check and could face supplemental discipline. CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

NHL

Capitals drop Isles in overtime

Justin Williams scored 4:16 into overtime to lift the Washington Capitals to a 3-2 victory over the New York Islanders on Thursday night in Brooklyn.

Alex Ovechkin scored twice in a 1:27 span early in the second period and Braden Holtby stopped 20 shots for the Capitals to get his league-leading 36th win of the season. The Capitals beat the Islanders for the third time in three meetings this season and ninth in the last 12 (9-1-2).

THURSDAY In Brooklyn

3	2
CAPITALS	ISLANDERS

Washington, which leads the NHL with 88 points, won for the fifth time in six games and improved to 15-3-2 against Metropolitan Division teams.

John Tavares and Frans Nielsen scored goals and Thomas Greiss had 32 saves for the Islanders, who had won four of their previous five. New York snapped a four-game home winning streak and will play 12 of its next 14 on the road. Nielsen tied it with 1:44 left as Travis Hamonic sent the puck toward the goal from the blue line and after it settled about a foot from the goal-line, Nielsen tucked it inside the right post.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going with status quo

NBA

Injury returnees will be Raptors' only stretch-run reinforcements

A strong, powerful forward with unique skills will join the Toronto Raptors starting lineup Friday night and, as practice wound up Thursday, the defensive specialist with deep playoff experience was getting up jump shots on his own.

A few thousand kilometres away, general manager Masai Ujiri was suggesting there wasn't anything available to substantially improve his team. But at a tiny little gym at the University of Chicago-Illinois, coach Dwane Casey was eagerly anticipating getting two players.

James Johnson will start again against the Bulls on Friday night and DeMarre Carroll is inching ever closer to a return from knee surgery, allowing Casey to feel all right moving on without a trade.

"That's a strong statement to our players: We believe in them, this is what we're going into battle with," Casey said after the practice. "Our charge is to every day get better, whether it's passing, footwork, whatever it is, something small. Get better.

"It's a statement that says these are our guys, these are the guys we believe in, these are the guys last summer that we committed to. They've done their job so far this year. Guys have committed to each other, they've bought into their roles, so we've got to continue to do that."

> **These are our guys, these are the guys we believe in.**
> Dwane Casey

It's a message the players welcomed and weren't surprised by. Chatter about the possible departure of Patrick Patterson or Terrence Ross in some fanciful blockbuster came to nothing.

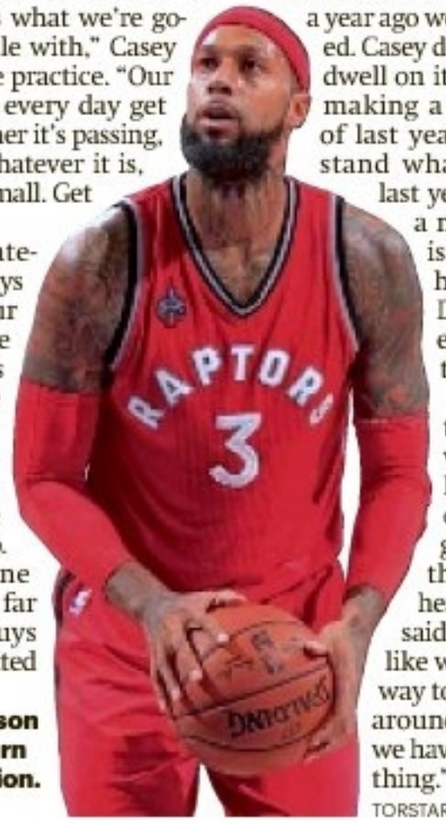
"With the struggles that we had all year, dealing with injuries, having key guys out for periods of time, having DeMarre out for a while, we still find a way to manage without being 100 per cent," DeMar DeRozan said. "You've got to give credit for how much this team, coaching staff, the organization, did."

Johnson, who missed four games with a sprained ankle, will give the team more size and experience until Carroll returns. Rookie Norman Powell did an OK job as a spot starter but Johnson puts things in order.

"It's a big body at his position," Casey said. "It puts DeMar back in his place, (Terrence) Ross doesn't have to battle the big body threes, and Norm is at a disadvantage in that situation. It helps us tremendously."

The Raptors are resolute that the second-half collapse a year ago won't be repeated. Casey doesn't want to dwell on it — "We keep making a big deal out of last year, we understand what happened last year but this is a new year, this is a new team," he said — and DeRozan pointed to a new maturity.

"I think this time around we haven't let our success, winning games, any of that, get to our heads," DeRozan said. "We still feel like we have a long way to go, this time around it feels like we haven't done anything."



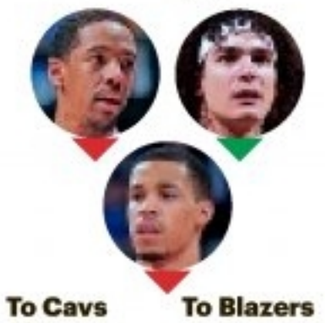
James Johnson is set to return to game action.
GETTY IMAGES

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DEADLINE WRAP

To Clippers
Jeff Green

To Grizzlies
Lance Stephenson, 1st-round pick



To Cavs
Channing Frye

To Blazers
Anderson Varejao

To Magic
Jared Cunningham, 2nd rounder

To Suns
Kris Humphries, DeJuan Blair, Protected 1st rounder

To Wizards
Markieff Morris

To Thunder
Randy Foye

To Nuggets
Steve Novak, D.J. Augustin, Pair of 2nd rounders

MORE MOVEMENT

To Pistons
Donatas Motiejunas, Marcus Thornton

To Rockets
Joel Anthony, 2016 1st rounder

To 76ers
Joel Anthony

To Rockets
Chuk Maduabum

To Jazz
Shelvin Mack

To Hawks
2nd rounder

To Bulls
2nd rounder

To Hawks
Kirk Hinrich

To Heat
Protected 2nd rounder

To Pelicans
Jarnell Stokes, $700,000

To Heat
Cash

To Blazers
Brian Roberts

GETTY IMAGES

One win from Rio

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Canada faces Costa Rica for Olympic berth

Less than eight months after exiting the World Cup on home soil, Canada is poised to book its ticket Friday to the other major of women's soccer — the Olympics.

Costa Rica stands in the way in the CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying Championship semifinal. Ranked 34th in the world, the Ticas are seen as a team on the rise. Still, the 11th-ranked Canadians would seem a significant cut above.

The top-ranked U.S. will face No. 48 Trinidad & Tobago in the later semifinal Friday at BBVA Compass Stadium. Both semifinal winners qualify for the Olympics, where Canada won bronze four years ago.

Coach John Herdman anticipates the Costa Ricans parking the bus in front of their goal.

"We'd expect them to probably throw a deep block out there and ask Canada to come and break us down," he told the pre-match news conference.

Canadian coach John Herdman talks to the media in Houston on Thursday. NEIL DAVIDSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We've had a lot of experience of that over the last three games — teams parking the bus and forcing us to be creative. So we're in a good rhythm in that sense."

If teams have parked the bus, they have left the windows and doors open.

Eleven different Canadians scored during the pool stage as Canada thumped No. 89 Guyana 5-0, Trinidad and Tobago 6-0 and No. 76 Guatemala 10-0.

"That's the exciting part," said Herdman. "Everyone coming out of the World Cup hammered us because we couldn't score. We were one of the best defensive teams in the tournament. We didn't get enough credit for that, I don't think, but you never do for defending.

27

Canada has outscored Costa Rica by 27 goals (30-3) in winning each of the nine matches between the two countries.

"I think we've got a new threat there," he said of his attack.

Canada scored four goals and conceded three in five games at the World Cup where it exited in a 2-1 quarter-final loss to England.

Costa Rica made its World Cup debut last summer tying Spain 1-1 and South Korea 2-2 before losing 1-0 to Brazil.

The Ticas, who have never reached the Olympics, advanced to Friday's semifinal by beating No. 108 Puerto Rico 9-0 and No. 26 Mexico 2-1 after an opening 5-0 loss to the U.S.

Herdman calls Costa Rica a well-organized team that has grown together.

"I think they genuinely believe they can go to Rio," he said. "And that's dangerous.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRACK AND FIELD

De Grasse primed for his pro debut

Andre De Grasse is poised to begin his professional career, and he knows more than a few eyes will be watching.

The 21-year-old sprint star from Markham will make his season debut Saturday in the 60 metres at the prestigious Millrose Games, part of a scaled-down indoor track season for De Grasse on the heels of a ridiculously gruelling 2015 outdoor season.

The race is his first since he won bronze in the 100 metres and 4x100 relay at the world championships in August, and De Grasse knows expectations are high.

"A lot of things could happen and I'm just going to come out and try to be confident," De Grasse said. "I can't say much or I can't put too much expectations on myself because it's my first meet — you're going to do well or you're going to do bad. I'm going to go out and have fun like I always have." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Argos kick off CFL season vs. Ticats at their new home

The 2016 CFL season will begin and end at BMO Field.

The Toronto Argonauts will host their arch-rivals, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, at their new home, in kicking off the 2016 campaign June 23. And the season will end at the refurbished stadium with the 104th Grey Cup game Nov. 27, the first time since 1982 since the CFL championship will be played outdoors in Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Limping Manchester United rotten in Denmark

Manchester United's disappointing season hit a new low with a 2-1 loss at Danish champion FC Midtjylland in the Europa League last 32 on Thursday, with a pre-match injury to goalkeeper David de Gea adding to the fallen English giant's woes in the first leg.

United's injury list already contained 13 players, including Wayne Rooney (knee), who missed the game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Shamrock, Gracie renew 20-year rivalry

Royce Gracie and Ken Shamrock, top, fight during UFC 1 in Denver in November 1993. HOLLY STEIN/GETTY IMAGES

MMA

Veterans that helped sport grow to battle for last time

Ken Shamrock is ready to throw in the towel. He concedes he can't beat Royce Gracie.

"I can't run 20 miles," Shamrock said, laughing. "I can't beat him in a long-distance mile. I'd probably go two miles and be done."

Forget 20 miles, Shamrock and Gracie can boast of a long-distance MMA rivalry that has spanned more than 20 years and multiple organizations.

They are MMA cornerstones that lugged the sport out of the days of cock-fighting comparisons and into one of the biggest, baddest mainstream sports around. Shamrock and Gracie had two fights to remember.

The third fight might be the one that decides if there's still drawing and punching power left in the once fearsome fighters. Or if this upcoming bout is nothing more than a foolish cash-grab embarrassment for two men well past MMA retirement age.

Gracie returns to the ring for the first time in almost a decade to fight Shamrock at Bellator 149 Friday night in Houston. The records matter less than the ages: Shamrock turned 52 last week and Gracie is 49. They clashed at UFC 1 on Nov. 12, 1993. "Why are people so afraid of me fighting at my age when the reality of the situation is, it's about dollars," Shamrock said. "It's about doing what I love to do and getting paid for it."

Royce Gracie GETTY IMAGES

Few would have predicted in '93 that Shamrock, Gracie and even MMA would have thrived well into the 21st century.

Gracie choked out Shamrock 57 seconds into the first bout at UFC 1. Before main events were short enough to fit into Vines, the second meeting at UFC 5 on April 7, 1995, was a draw in a bout that lasted a whopping 36 minutes, with no round breaks .

Shamrock and Gracie would become the first UFC Hall of Famers. "He's the reason I was able to rise to the level that I rose," Shamrock said. "He was where I had to be in order to be the best in the world." Gracie said he'll fight at the same 180-pound weight he fought at UFC 1. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Egg Bakes

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

These egg bakes take your easy scrambled eggs and toast dinner to the next level with only a little extra effort. And they're cute too.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes

Makes: 4 egg cups

Ingredients
- 4 slices of wholegrain bread
- 2 Tbsp butter, softened
- 4 eggs
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions
1. Heat the oven to 375 F.

2. Trim the crusts off of your bread. Use a rolling pin to flatten them and butter both sides of each piece. Press each thin slice into a muffin tin.

3. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes, or until the bread is golden brown. Remove from oven and place muffin tin on a cookie sheet — it will make getting your finished eggs out of the oven easier. Now crack an egg into each nest and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

4. Place it back into the oven for about 20 minutes, you want the yolks and whites to set but not get too hard. Remove from the oven and use a butter knife to pry egg bakes out of the muffin tin. Serve with a side salad.

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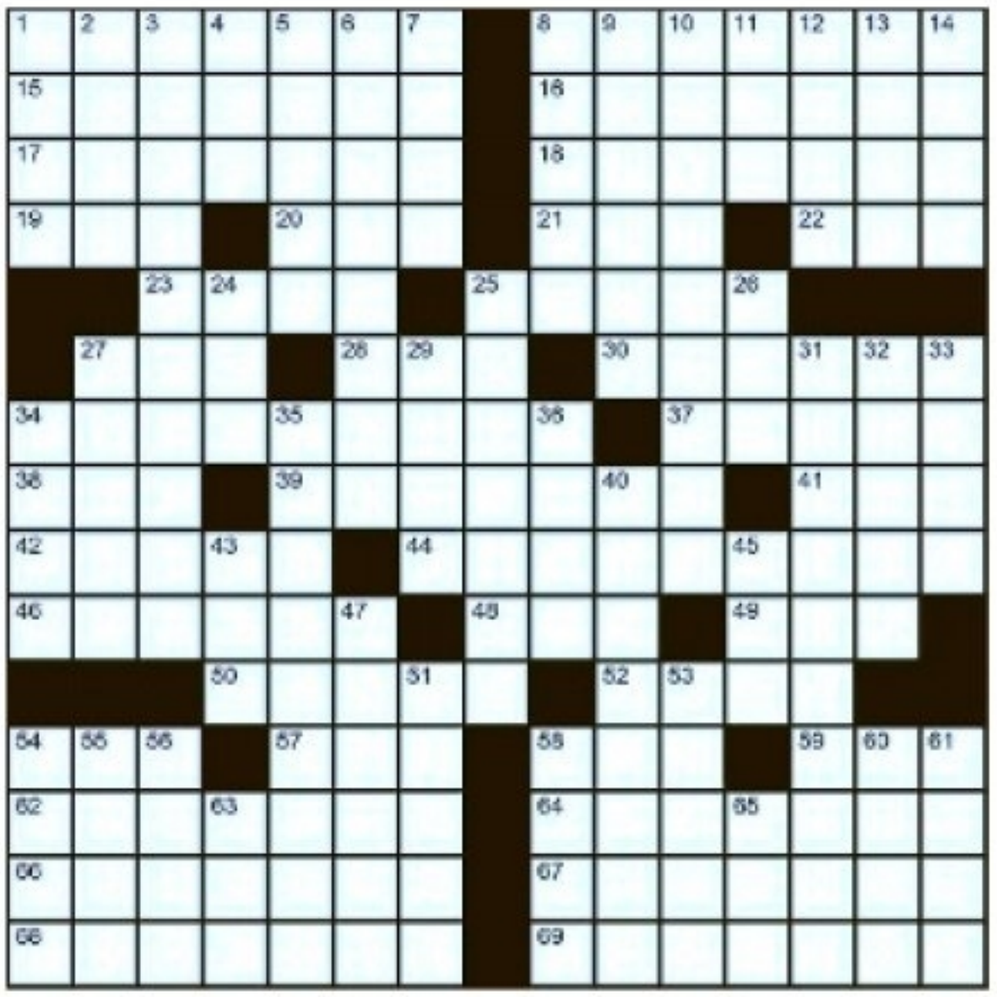
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. 1918 Montreal-to-Toronto: _ JN-4 'Canuck' (Plane used for Canada's first official aerial mail delivery)
8. Purplish red
15. Nose spray brand
16. Resistance to action
17. CRA = Canada _ Agency
18. Cushion decorations
19. Opposite NNW
20. 'Lact' suffix
21. Bitty Brit band
22. Gathered
23. Pro _ (Proportionately)
25. Febreze-using reason
27. Tricky
28. Discontinuity
30. Sharp-tailed _ (Saskatchewan's provincial bird)
34. 'Psst'-ing person
37. Poem comprised of lines from other poems
38. Basketball great, _ Ming
39. Ridiculous
41. Bamboozle
42. Optimist's opposer
44. 'Central' and 'Atlantic' in the National Basketball League of Canada
46. Ottawa-born singer/songwriter, _ Chante
48. Bird beak
49. Theatrical prompt
50. Q. "Kermit, the Muppets character, what is he?" A. "_ _."
52. Radar signal
54. Extinct bird
57. Lithium-_ battery
58. Conrad of Bravo police drama "19-2"
59. Pot cover
62. Indirect/slanting
64. Dinner party guest's gift, perhaps: 2 wds.
66. American roots music band that played with Jefferson Airplane: 2 wds.
67. Seventh or eleventh, for example
68. Ranks the tennis players again
69. Allocates

DOWN
1. 'Burned' computer discs, commonly
2. Scottish musician Midge's
3. Niagara _ _ (National Basketball League of Canada team)
4. Blood-sucking bug's half
5. "Is _ _ over yet?" (That game is still in overtime?)
6. Products by Canadian food brand Schneiders
7. Snick-or-_
8. Referenced
9. _ clock
10. Natural _ Canada
11. "_, Doubtfire" (1993)
12. Detail
13. World's longest river
14. The Middle _
24. Group of Seven painter Mr. Jackson, et al.
25. New store's 'grand' event
26. Deer sort
27. "Happy Baby" Canadian music trio
29. Dry
31. Gwyneth and Chris made headlines when they were 'conscious' about it
32. Masonry material
33. Long times
34. Klee _ (Emily Carr book)
35. West coast water ...en francais
36. Cleave
40. Rabbits whilst eating
43. Smashing Pumpkins co-founder James
45. Henri's 'here'
47. More or less
51. Q. "Did U2 release '_' _ a single in 1992?" A. "Yes."
53. Cheryl and Diane
54. Jay of "Jerry Maguire" (1996)
55. Orchestra instrument
56. Mountain heights [abbr.]
58. Malayan sailing boat
60. _ _ uproar
61. Rocker Mr. Shannon's
63. 'Favour' finisher
65. Nintendo game console

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
The next few weeks won't be easy but try not to make them harder than they have to be. A lot will depend on your attitude, especially your willingness to rise to a challenge rather than be intimidated by it.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The Sun in Pisces will boost your self-esteem and bring you into contact with people whose ideals mirror your own. But being challenged will inspire you to fight all the harder.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is an important time for career. You'll get opportunities to show what you can do. Seize them. If you let them pass you by they won't come around again for a long time.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
The Sun's change of signs will lead to a broadening of your horizons. Ideas that never meant much to you in the past will capture your imagination.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
It is unlikely you will be satisfied with superficial answers. You want — no you demand — to know what is going on beneath the surface and behind the scenes.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Look for ways to co-operate with others today and over the weekend. Remember, too, that everyone has a good side and a bad side but the good side is always stronger, especially if it is given encouragement. Let people know you like them.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You dislike it when unexpected events disturb your methods and habits but that's too bad because there will be severe disruptions over the next few days. Don't get uptight, in the long-term it will do you good.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart today and soon you will be moving so fast you will have trouble catching your breath. If you make an extra effort now you will reap rewards down the road.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It may seem as if the whole world is against you but nothing could be further from the truth. You are simply more touchy than usual. Stay calm.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will be on the move a lot over the next few weeks but today it will pay you to stay where you are. An extremely busy phase is about to begin and once you start you won't want, or be able, to stop.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The focus of your life is about to change, maybe a little, maybe a lot. One thing that will change is your finances which have been less than healthy. Essentials only from now on!

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
The time has come to show the world what you can do. You won't lack for energy or enthusiasm, so use them to pursue excellence in everything you do. You'll dazzle!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		1	4	7				
	5				8	2	1	
	2							3
	6							7
3								4
9							6	
4							2	
	1	3	6				5	
				2	9	6		

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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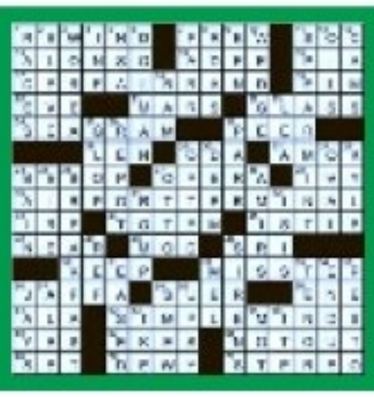

3	7	8	5	1	4	2	6	9
5	2	9	3	7	6	8	4	1
4	6	1	9	2	8	5	7	3
1	4	5	2	8	9	6	3	7
6	8	3	1	5	7	9	2	4
2	9	7	4	6	3	1	8	5
7	3	2	8	9	5	4	1	6
8	5	4	6	3	1	7	9	2
9	1	6	7	4	2	3	5	8

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